

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10 are pending. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and in other applications.

The Office Action contends that the title of the invention is not descriptive. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The title has been amended to obviate the objection, although using different words than suggested in the Office Action. The claimed invention should not be limited by the title.

Claims 2 and 5-7 stand objected to. Claims 2, 5 and 7 have been amended to overcome the objection on the grounds that the "other information" limitation is unclear. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-6 are not method claims and therefore, the phrase "configured to" does not render these claims indefinite.

Claims 1-2, 5, 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The claimed invention relates to a method of reproducing information, a client/server system in which the method is performed, and a computer-readable recording medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute the method. In one embodiment, the client/server system ("hybrid disk management system") includes a disk ID management server 1 ("first server"), a client PC 2, an application server 6 ("second server"), and a network 7 to which the first server 1, the second server 6 and the client PC 2 are directly connected. A disk ID is written to the program memory area

(PMA) of a hybrid disk 3. Each of the first server 1, the second server 6 and the client PC 2 is realized by a microcomputer including a CPU, a ROM, and a RAM. For details, please refer to the specification, pages 11+; Figure 1.

The specification describes each of the limitations of claims 1-2, 5, 7 and 10, as described above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-2, 5, 7 and 10 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action contends that the specification does not explicitly define the term "computer-readable recording medium." Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Please note that the claims do not merely recite a "computer-readable recording medium." The claims more particularly recite a recording medium. Therefore, the rejection of claims 7 and 10 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 2002/0082917 ("Takano"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As mentioned earlier, the client/server system of the claimed invention includes a first server 1, a client PC 2, a second server 6, and a network 7 to which the first server 1, the second server 6 and the client PC 2 are directly connected. The first server 1 has a disk ID management database 5 ("database") for managing the disk ID of the hybrid disk 3. The disk ID of the hybrid disk 3 is transmitted to the first server 1 by the client PC 2, the first server 1 determines whether the disk ID is contained in the database 5 and whether usage information field of the hybrid disk 3 is blank, entering data in the usage

information field and notifying the client PC 2 of the data entry. For details, please refer to the specification, pages 11+.

Takano is directed to a content programs distribution and returning system as well as content programs rental method that allow charging in accordance with usage time period. The system includes an electronic content programs distributing and returning center server 101, rental store high speed recording apparatuses 120A to 120M, kiosk returning terminals 110A to 110P, 110Q, kiosk management servers 170A to 170K, a card 150 as a recording medium, and a portable viewing terminal (160). The kiosk returning terminal 110 is connected via the kiosk management server 170 to the electronic content programs distributing and returning center server 101.

Claim 1 recites a method of reproducing information in a client/server system "where a client is directly connected to a server via a network." This is an important aspect of the invention. The Office Action relies on the electronic content programs distributing and returning center server 101 and the kiosk returning terminal 110 to be the server and the client, respectively, of the claimed invention. But the "client is directly connected to [the] server via a network" in the claimed invention. On the other hand, Figure 1 of Takano clearly shows that the kiosk returning terminal 110 is connected via the kiosk management server 170 to the electronic content programs distributing and returning center server 101. Takano fails to teach or suggest that "a client is directly connected to a server via a network." For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-3, 5-8 and 10 contain similar limitations as claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-3, 5-8 and 10 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Mark J. Thronson

Registration No.: 33,082

Ranga Sourirajan

Registration No.: 60,109

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP

1825 Eye Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006-5403

(202) 420-2200

Attorneys for Applicant